(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Registration of Universities

497. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has decided against the universities registered in one State from getting recognition from the universities located in other States;

(b) if so, how the working of Amity and Rai University has been affected; and

(c) what happens to the students of these Universities whose education has come to an abrupt halt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court Orders in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 19/2004: Prof. Yash Pal & Ors. *Vs.* State of Chhattisgarh & Ors., declared the provisions of the State Act permitting off-campus centres outside Chhattisgarh to be ultra vires of the Constitution. Thus the private universities established under the Act have ceased to exist. The Supreme Court directed that the State Government may take appropriate measures to have these institutions affiliated to the already existing State Universities in Chhattisgarh. It was further directed that the benefit of affiliation of an institution shall be extended only if it fulfills the requisite norms and standards laid down for such purpose and not to every kind of institution. Regarding technical, medical or dentals colleges, etc. affiliation may be accorded if they have been established after fulfilling the prescribed criteria laid down by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India or any other statutory authority and with their approval or sanction as prescribed by law.

Admission to NTs

498. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the norms for admission to NTs have been changed and admission would be restricted to only first divisioners in senior secondary examinations;

(b) if so, the deails thereof;

(c) whether there were widespread protests against the new norms; and

(d) the demands of the agitators and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the recommendations of the Special Task Force constituted by the Directors of IITs, norms for admission to IITs have been changed to reduce the examination stress on students, to give due weightage to the Board results and to check the proliferation of coaching institutions.

It has been decided that only those students who get 60% or more marks in class XIIth will be eligible for admission to IITs, a student can have only two attempts to write JEE with effect from 2006, one in the year in which he or she passes the XIIth Standard Examination and/or in the following year. The candidates who join any of the IITs, IT-BHU, Varanasi and ISM Dhanbad through JEE 2006 will not be permitted to appear in JEE in future.

(c) and (d) Some representations were received against the new norms. Joint Admission Board, therefore, in its meeting held on 17th September, 2005 in Kolkata considered them and decided that candidates, who have passed their qualifying examination in 2005 or earlier, will be permitted to appear in JEE 2006, as a last chance, irrespective of the marks secured or the number of earlier attempts at JEE subject to their satisfying the age limit.

Joint Entrance Examination

499. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Joint Admission Board (JAB) of the IITs announced a new format of the Joint Entrance Examination to be held in 2006;